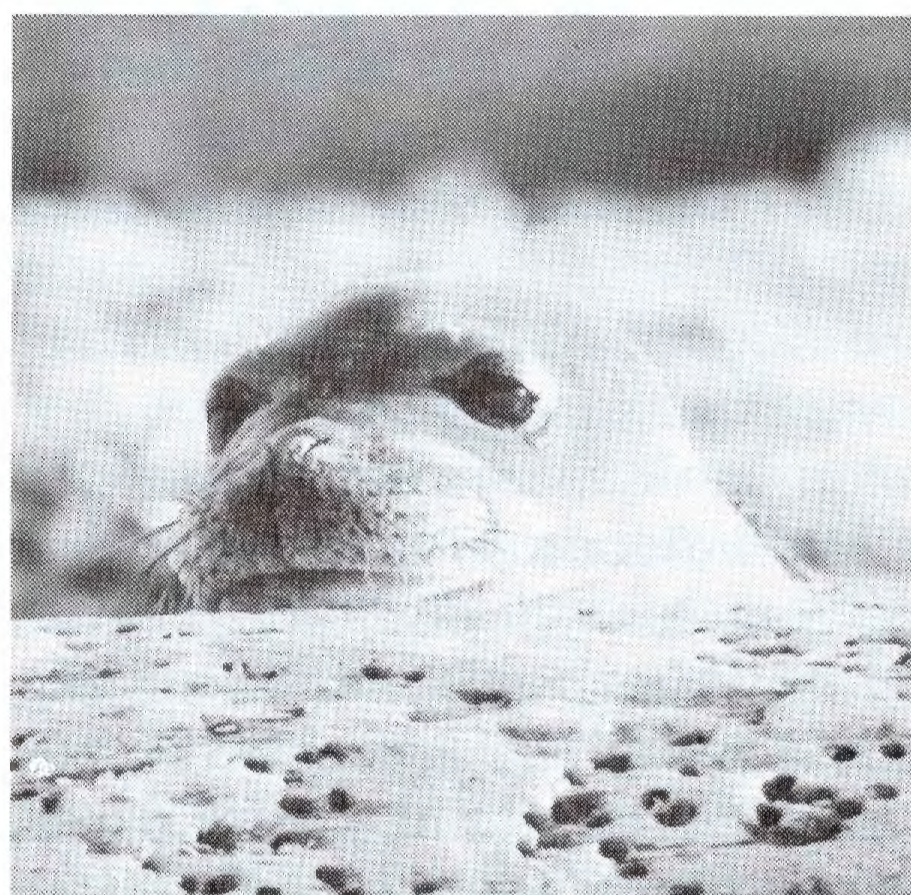


The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

July/August 1988



Summer Members' Meetings

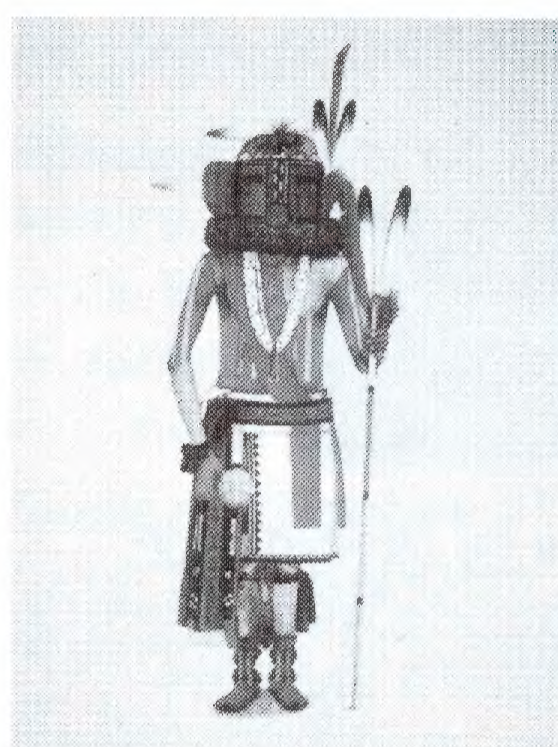


Leighton R. Taylor, Jr.

Lives of Coral Islands

Coral reefs are complex systems of living organisms that concentrate nutrients and provide habitats for a surprising diversity of plants and animals. On Wednesday July 13 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Thursday July 14 at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Leighton Taylor will present a slide-lecture overview of organisms who spend their lives on or near coral reefs and coral islands, with examples ranging from corals and seastars to humans, snakes, cone-shells and sea birds. Dr. Taylor earned his master's degree in Marine Biology at the University of Hawaii, and received his doctoral degree at UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dr. Taylor returned to Hawaii in 1972 to join the graduate faculty of Zoology at the University of Hawaii and served as the Director of the Waikiki Aquarium. In 1986 Dr. Taylor came to the Academy as Deputy Director.

One of his present research projects involves the seasonal aggregation of grey reef sharks in the Hawaiian Islands. Join him for an illuminating slide lecture on the "Lives of Coral Islands."



When the Gods First Danced: An Archeologists View of the Origins of Kachinas

For the Pueblo Indians of the Southwest, kachinas are generally benevolent spirits who bring the blessings of rain, crops and healing to all people. In the context of Pueblo cosmology, kachinas have been present from the earliest time. Dr. Linda Cordell, Chair and Curator of the Academy's Anthropology Department, shares her knowledge about the origins of kachinas in Members' Meetings on Wednesday August 10 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Thursday August 11 at 7:30 pm.

The lecture explores the meaning of kachinas to Pueblo peoples, the history of European attempts to eradicate kachina ceremony, and the archeological debates about the origins of kachina ritual.

For the Members' Meetings on September 7 and 8 Andrew Fraknoi will speak on "Mars '88: Its Close Approach and Intriguing Mysteries." Members will also want to take note that the Academy Store will be open for the July and August evening lectures.

Summer Hummers Are Back!



Dr. John McCosker, Director of the Academy's Steinhart Aquarium tunes in to a humming toadfish.

Remember the Sausalito hum that made headlines during the summers of 1984 and 1985? Houseboaters could not sleep and residents claimed everything from extraterrestrials to a sewage treatment plant as the source of the annoying drone. A team of "hum-busters" which included the Academy's Dr. John McCosker cracked the case by discovering amorous humming toadfish, *Porichthys notatus*, humming to attract female companionship in the shallows of Richardson Bay.

On Sunday, July 31, height of the humming season, the Academy of Sciences joins over 25 other non-profit and educational organizations at the Sausalito Bay Model for the Humming Toadfish Festival, a day of exhibits, boat tours, video and slide shows, lectures and live entertainment to focus on our coastal waters and the life that lives below and above the waterline.

The fun starts at 11:00 a.m. Come early and join the kazoo marching band (free kazoos to the first 500 visitors!) led by Hummingbird Grand Marshal John McCosker. A display of the noisy critters will be provided by the Academy's Steinhart Aquarium. Don't miss the fun! The Sausalito Humming Toadfish Festival runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Bay Model located at 2100 Bridgeway. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. For more information call the Bay Model at 332-3871.

Frogmen of Africa: Bob Drewes and Jens Vindum



*Collecting
at Night*

Susan Middleton

The Eastern Arc Mountains of Southeastern Kenya and Eastern Tanzania punctuate the equatorial tropics with isolated mountain forests that are home to a remarkable number of amphibian species found nowhere else on Earth. Dr. Robert Drewes and Jens Vindum, reptile and amphibian specialists from the Academy's Herpetology Department, recently returned from a research trip to these remote African mountains with a bounty of fresh specimens and new discoveries.

Drewes equates the mountain ecosystems of this area to those of the Galapagos. "Each mountain system is like an isolated island," he remarks, "and relates to the others in a shared ancestry of flora and fauna." Comparing the mountains, one can begin to hypothesize on how long each has been separated from the others and get

initial estimates of divergence, thereby deciphering how recently the creatures shared ancestry. Armed with nets, flashlights and tape recorders, Drewes and Vindum did much of their collecting at night, chasing after the nocturnal frogs and recording the symphonic cacophony of mating calls. Their efforts in cooperation with the University of Dar es Salaam yielded such rich discoveries as endemic frogs, chameleons, geckos and rare, legless amphibians. They even collected an exotic green-blooded, green-boned and green-pigmented frog. Having just returned from the first of four years of visits to the Eastern Arc, Drewes and Vindum are only just beginning to unravel the complex biology of this little known area, a study that will take many years to complete.

Golden Gateway to Gems

The 34th annual Golden Gateway to Gems will be presented by the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society on August 6 and 7 in the San Francisco County Fair Building (formerly the Hall of Flowers) in Golden Gate Park at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way. Hours will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Satur-

day and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. In keeping with this year's emphasis on metallic minerals, the California Academy of Sciences will exhibit glittering pyrite and unusual copper specimens. Academy members will receive a 50 cent discount on the admission price.

Academy Wins 1988 Museum Publications Competition

The American Association of Museums has awarded the California Academy of Sciences highest honors in several categories of its annual Museum Publications Competition. The Academy won an Award of Distinction (First Place) in the Brochures category for its Souvenir Book and in Scholarly Journals for *Memiors of the California Academy of Sciences* by Dr. Wojciech J. Pulawski, Assistant Curator of Entomology. The Adult Education Spring 1988 Calendar of Events won an Award of Merit (Second Prize). All winning entries will be on display at the Pittsburgh exhibit hall and an article about the competition, the winning entries and the jurors will appear in the September/October issue of *Museum News*.

Summer at the Junior Academy

This summer the Junior Academy will be offering a variety of classes and field trips for students 6 to 16 years old. Classes include Chemistry Lab, Nature Drawing, Marine Mammals, and Lives of Ancient Egyptians. Junior Academy members may also participate in one-day field trips to learn about the wildlife of the San Francisco Bay Area, and a three-day trip to the High Sierra. Classes are presented in two summer sessions from July 12-28 and August 9-25 (Tuesday and Thursday) and July 13-29 and August 10-26 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). Meetings are divided in either six one-and-a-half or eight one-hour sessions. For more information on these or any other of the full schedule of summer activities at the Junior Academy call 750-7100.

All the World's a Stage at Traditional Arts



Art Deco-style
dancer of
*Fascinating
Rhythm*

Marty Sohl

Traditional Arts programs bring the colorful cultural traditions of the world to stage each Saturday in the Academy's Wattis Hall. The weekly Traditional Arts presentations offer a lively glimpse of ethnic dance, music, crafts, and culinary skills from around the world. Traditional Arts programs are funded by a grant from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation. All programs begin at 1:00 p.m. There will be no Traditional Arts programs in August.

July 4 — The Von Kinsky Dancers perform a selection of Austrian and Bavarian dances centering on seasonal celebrations and customs in village life. The program includes the *gaisberger bandletanz* (maypole dance), a harvest festival dance, and the men's hand-clapping and thigh slapping *schub-platter*.

July 9 — Yilun Thai, a native of Malaysia, demonstrates Chinese folk art calligraphy — a combination of traditional Chinese characters and pictorial elements such as the legendary dragon and phoenix, or motifs from nature (birds, fish, flowers).

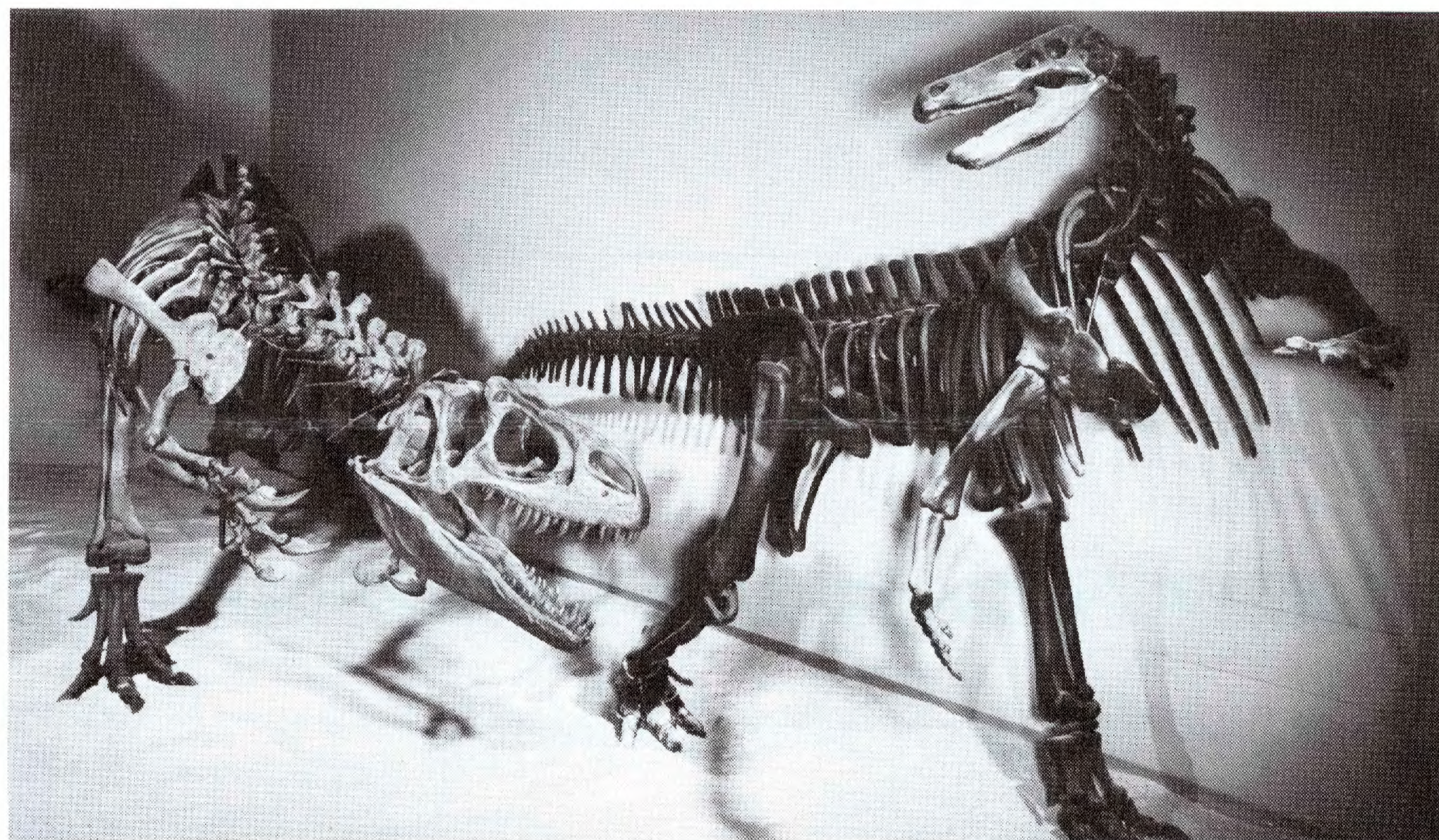
July 16 — Fascinating Rhythm is a talented group specializing in dances from the 1920s to the 1940s, the era of the great Hollywood musicals and Broadway shows. Debra Sternbach joins other members of the group to present a lecture/demonstration on tap dancing, featuring the various styles of tap and its origins. Our special guest performer is 73-year-old Stanley Kahn, a master of classical tap and a performer since the 1930s.

Study Nature this Summer

Keep in touch with the beauty of nature this summer by participating in some of the rewarding activities offered by the Adult Education Office. The Academy's Adult Education programs offer a variety of courses in natural history and field trips to places of scientific interest. The courses and activities are presented in areas of Anthropology, Art, Photography, Astronomy/Physics, Botany, General Science, Marine Science and Ornithology. Some of the wild and wonderful classes available include

"Illustrating Reptiles and Amphibians," "Collecting Plants in the Isthmus of Panama," "Making Waves," "Natural History of Año Nuevo," "Tern, Tern, Tern," "A Day with Arthropods," "Botanical Walks with Glenn Keator" and "A Gathering of Basketry Materials." Participants must be 18 years or older and early registration is encouraged. For more information on these and other summer activities call the Adult Education Office at 750-7100.

Dinosaurs From Life Through Time



Mark Charnow

Dinosaur skeletons posed as if in motion

When one thinks of dinosaurs, one might imagine the likes of Godzilla or the Loch Ness Monster. But in reality dinosaurs ranged from the speedy, chicken-sized *Compsognathus* to the 98-foot-long vegetarian *Ultrasaurus*. This fascinating family of reptiles, distant relatives of modern-day alligators, snakes, birds, turtles and lizards, can be seen in a new exhibit in the Academy's Hohfeld Gallery, "Dinosaurs From the Life Through Time Collection." Dinosaurs dominated the Earth more than 65 million years ago. Today we find evidence of their lives in a rich fossil record of footprints, bones and petrified impressions. "Dinosaurs" is a captivating dis-

play of fossil remains, illustrations, video, reconstructed skeletons and models that takes the viewer on a journey back through time to the Age of Dinosaurs. Life-size dinosaur skeletons, posed as if in motion, are shown together with cases of ancient extinct mollusks, fossilized Saber-Toothed Tiger skulls, a petrified Mastodon tusk, dinosaur eggs and planktonic crustaceans magnified larger than life. The fossils and models featured in the exhibit are only a small part of the many wonderful things planned for the new permanent hall, "Life Through Time: The Evidence for Evolution," scheduled to open at the Academy in the fall of 1989.

Summer and Autumn Travel Adventures

Indians of the Southwest

August 27-September 11

Against a dramatic backdrop of desert mesas and mountains, this Academy tour of the Southwest will explore modern Native American culture in the context of the thousands of years of prehistoric development in the region. Festivals and dances in Acoma, Zuni, and Hopi villages demonstrate how modern Pueblo Indians preserve their rich cultural traditions while participating fully in twentieth-century American life. The

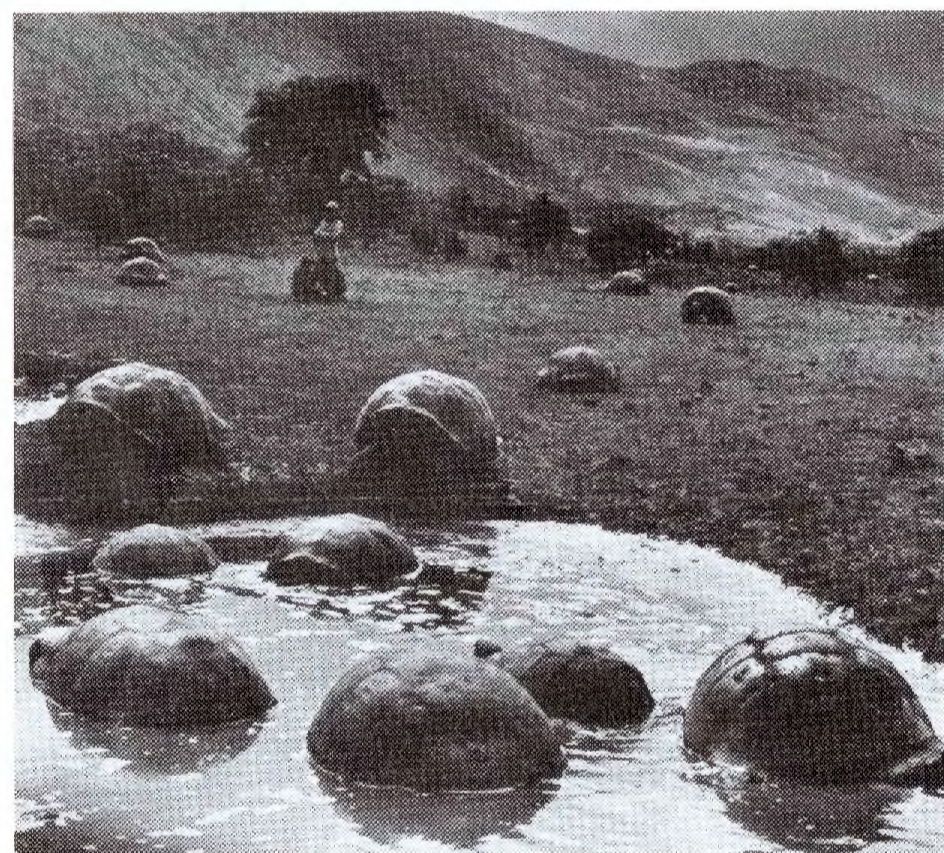
tour includes visits to the Anasazi ruins of Mesa Verde and Chaco Canyon National Parks, and Bandelier, Aztec, Navajo, and Canyon de Chelly National Monuments. Tour leader Dr. Linda Cordell is Chairman of the Academy's Anthropology Department and has focused her research on the prehistory of the Southwest.

Costs are approximately \$2300 for the tour and \$198 for air fare.



Susan Middleton

Galapagos: The Enchanted Isles October 3-19



Tui de Rui Moore

Galapagos giant tortoises

The Galapagos Islands are home to some of the world's most extraordinary scenery and wildlife — from the crater of Alcedo Volcano on Isabela Island to large colonies of giant tortoises. Under the leadership of Dr. Robert Drewes, Chairman of the Department of Herpetology, Academy members will explore this fascinating island group in a special two-week cruise. While most standard tours to the Galapagos include either seven or nine days in the Islands, our exclu-

sive tour offers 14 days of adventure with visits to Marchena Island and Punta Cavallos on Hood Island, both of which are usually closed to visitors. We will travel in greatest comfort aboard the newly constructed Isabella II, a fully air conditioned, spacious 17-crew yacht.

The cruise is limited to 32 participants and costs \$3,740 per person, based on double occupancy. Air fare is \$719 round trip.

Travel the Globe on Academy Expeditions in 1989!

The Academy's travel program offers adventurous visits to fascinating destinations around the world accompanied by experts whose knowledge adds immensely to the enjoyment and memories of the trip. Enjoy fun-filled days in beautiful locations while learning more about the inspiring world of natural history on an Academy Expedition. We proudly announce the Academy Expeditions for 1989, a full roster of rare and exciting tours throughout the world.

Here's the complete list of 11 new travel adventures:

Antarctica and the Falkland Islands

January 9-25

Leader: Dr. John McCosker

Tanzania Tenting Safari

January 26-February 11

Leader: Beth Dunbar

Costa Rica

March 28-April 8

Leader: Dr. Frank Almeda

The Silk Road

April 30-May 24

Leader: Nancy Pickford

Mongolia and Siberia

June 8-July 1

Foods of France

June 17-July 2

Greenland and the Canadian Arctic

July 26-August 9

Canada: Prairies and Plains
August 2-13

Caravans of Central Asia:
Samarkand, Tashkent, Bukhara
September 9-22

Namibia and Botswana: A Safari
September 11-29

New Zealand, Tasmania, and Australia
September 27-October 17
Leader: Dr. Frank H. Talbot

The Academy Travel Office would be happy to answer questions about these expeditions. For more information call (415) 750-7222.



Fall Lecture Series

Exploring Papua New Guinea



Long-protected from the intrusions of modern culture by its remote location, the Sepik River of Papua New Guinea is home to some of the most distinctive and arresting indigenous art found in the Pacific Basin. From spears and shields used in warfare to musical instruments and utilitarian wares, almost everything used in the Sepik River people's daily life was carved and decorated. This summer at the Academy visitors will find over 160 Sepik River objects on display in the major traveling exhibition, "River of Mystery: The Sepik River of Papua New Guinea," last stop on a three-year tour of Europe and North America. In conjunction with the exhibition, visitors will also have the chance to learn more about this intriguing island and its people through a series of eight lectures beginning in September. The lecture series, "Exploring Papua New Guinea," features a distinguished roster of anthropologists, art historians, naturalists and sociologists from museums and educational institutions across the U.S. Come learn more about the rich social, economic and cultural environments that have made the Sepik the richest art-producing area in Papua New Guinea. All programs will be held in the Morrison Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Here's a complete schedule:
Thursday, September 8 – A Naturalist's View of Papua New Guinea, Dr. Luis Baptista, Depart-

ment of Birds and Mammals, California Academy of Sciences

Monday, September 26 – Art and the Original Affluent Societies of the Sepik, Dr. Deborah Gerwertz, Department of Anthropology/Sociology, Amherst College

Tuesday, October 4 – Art Styles of the Sepik Provinces, Douglas Newton, Department of Primitive Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Monday, October 10 – Power, Politics and Divine Artistry in a Sepik Society, Dr. Donald Tuzin, Department of Anthropology, UC San Diego

Tuesday, October 17 – Cargo Cults, Dr. Theodore Schwartz, Department of Anthropology, UC San Diego

Tuesday, October 26 – The Art of Body Adornment in the New Guinea Highlands, Dr. Andrew Strethern, Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh

Tuesday, November 1 – Anthropology and the Puzzle of Cannibalism: Images of the Cannibal and Acts of Cannibalism among the Bimin-Kuskusmin of the West Sepik of Papua New Guinea, Dr. Fitz Poole, Department of Anthropology, UC San Diego

Thursday, November 10 – Gender Rituals: Coming of Age in Papua New Guinea, Dr. Nancy Lutekehaus, Department of Anthropology, University of Southern California

A Winning Frog



Susan Middleton

John Hancock Special Number 3

Gene Fasano chased his frog, John Hancock Special Number 3, to victory in the 60th annual Calaveras County Frog Jubilee, held at Angels Camp on Sunday May 22. Fasano's family took about 50 frogs to the Mother Lode town to compete. John Hancock Special Number 3 bounded his way to first place with a three jump total of 18 feet, 10 1/2 inches. "The real secret once the frog starts to jump is to have some athletic ability to keep up with the frog and scare him at the right time," Fasano said after the race. John Hancock Special Number 3, now forever glorified in the annals of frog jumping history, has been donated by Fasano to the Academy. The able frog was caught in the irrigation canals around Gustine — the Merced County town where Fasano grew up. "Frogs from the Gustine area are the best," Fasano said, adding that "they've won about 25 of the contests." John Hancock will find his new home in the Academy's recently renovated Swamp, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year



Ticket Order Form — Exploring Papua New Guinea

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Please send this form and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Special Programs Office, Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Enclosed is a check payable to the California Academy of Sciences for:

_____ members tickets at \$5

_____ non-members tickets at \$6

_____ members' rate for lecture series at \$35.

Please indicate which lectures you are interested in when purchasing individual tickets.

580
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Summertime at the Academy *July*

- 2 Traditional Arts — Austrian and Bavarian dances
- 3 Science in Action 6 to 8 p.m. KCBS radio
- 4 Summer hours begin — the Academy is open daily until 7 p.m. through Labor Day. The Planetarium also begins extra daily summer sky shows.
- 9 Traditional Arts — Chinese calligraphy 1 p.m.
- 12 Junior Academy summer session begins
- 13 Members Meetings — “Lives of Coral Island” 2 and 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Members’ Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Traditional Arts — Dances from the 1920s to the 1940s 1 p.m.

August

- 10 Members’ Meetings — “When the Gods First Danced: An Archeologists View of the Origins of Kachinas” 2 and 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Members’ Meeting 7:30 p.m.



Come Early to summer Members’ Meetings and enjoy leisurely shopping in the Academy Store. The store will be open 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. and again from 8:30 – 9:00 p.m. following the summer lectures, offering an exciting assortment of coral reef merchandise for the July meeting and a unique expanded selection of kachina dolls acquired especially for Linda Cordell’s lecture on kachinas in August. Remember, members receive a 10% discount on purchases in the Academy Store.